

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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UNCLAS STATE 117284 TOSEC 040402

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS, EVENING 5/20/77

NO. 47

1. NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES TIMES

OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM GENEVA

LEAD: VANCE'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS ON STRATEGIC  
ARMS LIMITATIONS HAVE REACHED AN INTENSIVE STAGE, WITH  
ANOTHER BARGAINING SESSION SET FOR TODAY, US OFFICIALS  
REPORTED THURSDAY.

OTHER POINTS:  
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--FOR FIRST TIME IN CARTER ADMIN THERE WAS SOME SENSE THAT  
2 SIDES MAY BE NEARING AGREEMENT ON FORMULA FOR NEW SALT  
TREATY.

--SPOKESMAN CARTER DISCLOSED THAT PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS,  
BEING CONDUCTED BY WARNKE, IS DRAFTING COMMUNIQUE TO BE  
ISSUED BEFORE TALKS END. WARNKE TALKS COVER ARMS VERI-  
FICATION QUESTIONS.

---PAUSE IN VANCE/GROMYKO TERMS DISCUSSIONS, IT WAS  
UNOFFICIALLY SPECULATED, WAS TO GIVE GROMYKO TIME TO

CONSULT WITH KREMLIN. VANCE'S SPOKESMAN AS MUCH AS  
CONFIRMED THOUGHT THAT GROMYKO WAS ASSUMED TO BE IN  
TOUCH WITH KREMLIN. VANCE TEAM EXPECTED IMPORTANT  
REPLY FROM SOVS TODAY.

---WARNKE'S AGENDA INCLUDES FINAL WORDING ON MIRV VERI-  
FICATION AGREEMENT, SOV COMPLIANCE IN AGREEMENT WHEREBY  
EACH SIDE MAKES AVAILABLE RELIABLE DATA BASE OF  
INFORMATION ABOUT ITS STRATEGIC ARSENAL, NON-INTERFER-  
ENCE IN OTHER SIDE'S SATELLITE SPYING CAPABILITIES,  
AND TRANSFER OF WEAPONS TO THIRD COUNTRY TO AVOID  
COUNTING THEM UNDER DEPLOYMENT CEILINGS.

## 2. TELEVISION

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

CHANCELLOR: THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE MADE  
PROGRESS TOWARD A NEW TREATY TO LIMIT STRATEGIC NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS TALKS IN GENEVA BETWEEN SECSTATE VANCE AND FM  
GROMYKO ENDED TODAY AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THERE ARE  
HOPEFUL INDICATIONS. TOMORROW THERE WILL BE DETAILS,  
TODAY WE HAVE NOTHING SPECIFIC EXCEPT -HAT SERIOUS NEG-  
OTIATIONS HAVE COMMENCED ANDT THAT THERE IS REASON FOR  
OPTIMISM. THE NEW AGREEMENT IT IS SAID IS A FRAMEWORK  
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WHICH CONTAINS AGREEMENTS AND DISAGREEMENTS FROM BOTH  
SIDES.

VALERIANI: VANCE LEFT HIS HOTEL ALMOST AN HOUR LATER THAN  
SCHEDULED THIS AFTERNOON AFTER CONFERING WITH THE WHITE  
HOUSE ABOUT THE LATEST RUSSIAN PROPOSAL. THE SECRETARY  
TOOK THE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL TO THE SOVIET  
EMBASSY FOR HIS FINAL MEETING WITH GROMYKO. GROMYKO HAD  
PRESENTED THE MODIFIED SOVIET POSITION AT THIS MORNING'S  
MEETING AFTER GETTING NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE KREMLIN.  
THE RUSSIANS DID NOT PERMIT FILMING AT THE MORNING SESSION  
WHICH LASTED AN HOUR. THEY DID ALL THE TALKING. NEITHER  
SIDE PROVIDED ANY CLUES AS TO SUBSTANCE WITH GROMYKO  
SAYING "WE ARE SILENT LIKE FISH". AFTERWARDS VANCE  
DECLINED TO SAY WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

VANCE:"WE FINISHED OUR TALKS, WE ARE GOING TO ISSUE A  
JOINT COMMUNIQUE TOMORROW MORNING WHICH WE WILL BE WORKING  
ON TONIGHT AND I'M GOING TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE  
TOMORROW MORNING AT 11:00 AM, SO I THINK THAT I WZLL  
REALLY SAY NO MORE THAN THAT UNTIL THE PRESS CONFERENCE  
TOMORROW, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE TALKS HAVE BEEN VERY  
USEFUL AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED AND I BELIEVE THAT VIEW  
IS SHARED BY THE SOVIETS AS WELL.

VALERIANI: HOWEVER ANOTHER AMERICAN OFFICIAL LATER TOLD NBC NEWS "ALL IS OK" SUGGESTING THE TWO SIDES HAD REACHED AT LEAST, SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT."

CBS EVENING NEWS (CRONKITE)

SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO ENDED THREE DAYS OF HIGH LEVEL STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS IN GENEVA AND IT SEEMS THEY MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS.

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KALB: BEFORE VANCE RETURNED TO THE SOVIET MISSION FOR HIS FINAL MEETING WITH GROMYKO HE HAD CHECKED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS THAT SEEMED TO CHEER THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BECAUSE NOW THEY HAVE FINALLY BROKEN THE IMPASSE IN THEIR ONGOING EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE ANOTHER STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT. THEY HAVE REACHED A NEW PLATEAU OF UNDERSTANDING. MUCH STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE - HOW TO RELATE THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE AND THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER TO THE ENTIRE PACKAGE, HOW QUICKLY BOTH SIDES CAN BEGIN CUTTING BACK FROM THE 2400 CEILING AND THE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS EACH CAN HAVE; BUT IN THIS CRITICAL NEGOTIATION BY WHICH THE WHOLE PROCESS OF DETENTE IS MEASURED THEY HAVE IN THEIR OWN SELF-INTEREST TAKEN A BIG STEP FORWARD. VANCE WAS HARDLY TALKATIVE WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS HOTEL BUT HE DID REFLECT AN INNER OPTIMISM.

VANCE: WE FINISHED OUR TALKS, WE ARE GOING TO ISSUE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE TOMORROW MORNING WHICH WE'LL BE WORKING ON TONIGHT. THE TALKS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED AND I BELIEVE THAT VIEW IS SHARED BY THE SOVIETS AS WELL.

KALB: VANCE AND GROMYKO DECIDED THEY WOULD LEAVE GENEVA TOMORROW BOTH NOW HOPEFUL THAT THEY CAN COMPLETE ANOTHER STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT BEFORE THE CURRENT ONE EXPIRES THIS OCTOBER.

ABC EVENING NEWS

REASONER: THERE'S GROWING OPTIMISM AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND IN GENEVA THE CURRENT ROUND OF SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS TALKS. AFTER THREE DAYS OF TALKS BETWEEN VANCE AND GROMYKO IN GENEVA, THE SUPERPOWERS HAVE REPORTEDLY REACHED AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS. WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS SAY THIS AFTERNOON THE TALKS PRODUCED PROGRESS AND HOPE-  
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FUL INDICATIONS. THE CURRENT TREATY EXPIRES IN OCTOBER.

DUNSMORE: THE AMERICAN TACTICS FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA WERE MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THOSE FOR THE MOSCOW TALKS. WHEN VANCE WENT TO MOSCOW IN MARCH HE WENT WITH TOW HARD-LINE PROPOSALS, WHICH REPRESENTED PRETTY MUCH "TAKE IT OR

LEAVE IT." THE RUSSIANS QUICKLY REJECTED BOTH.

THIS TIME THE US WAS MORE FLEXIBLE. THERE WAS A WILL-INGNESS TO NEGOTIATE A SO-CALLED BLEND OF THE ONE SOVIET AND TWO AMERICANS PLANS ON THE TABLE.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE US HAS GIVEN AWAY THE STORE. IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE FINAL AGREEMENT WILL LOOK PRETTY MUCH LIKE THE ONE ALMOST REACHED IN JANUARY 1976. THAT CALLED FOR A CEILING OF ABOUT 2200 STRATEGIC MISSILES AND BOMBERS WITH COMPROMISE RESTRICTIONS ON THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE AND THE RUSSIAN BACKFIRE BOMBER. THE MAIN REASON THAT DEAL WAS NEVER CONCLUDED WAS THAT PRES FORD WAS IN POLITICAL BATTLE WITH RONALD REAGAN AND CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS OPPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE.

PRES CARTER WILL ALSO HAVE TROUBLE WITH CONSERVATIVES WHEN IT COMES TIME FOR THE SENATE TO RATIFY THE TREATY, BUT IT'S EXPECTED HE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE JANUARY '76 PACKAGE LOOK BETTER BY ADDING TO IT A RUSSIAN COMMITMENT TO MAKE MAJOR CUTS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. WIRES

AP  
BARRY SCHWEID FROM GENEVA

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LEAD: "US AND SOV UNION BROKE AN IMPASSE ON NEW TREATY TO LIMIT STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY AGREEING TODAY ON THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, US OFFICIALS REPORTED."

OTHER POINTS:

--US OFFICIALS SAID TERMS OF AGREEMENT MUST STILL BE WORKED OUT BUT NEGOTIATING PROCESS CAN BEGIN.

--VANCE WAS RESTRAINED BUT IN UPBEAT MOOD FOLLOWING TALKS AND WAS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SOME DETAILS OF NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK AT SATURDAY PRESS CONFERENCE.

--INFORMED SOURCES AND 2 SIDES HAD AGREED TO BLEND US PROPOSALS WITH SOV OFFER, FINAL RESULT TO INCLUDE REDUCTION OF ARSENALS BY BOTH SIDES, RESTRICTIONS ON CRUISE MISSILE AND BACKFIRE BOMBERS AND MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE MORE SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONS CUTBACKS.

--SOURCES SAID COMPROMISE WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE 10-15 PRESENT REDUCTION OF VLADIVOSTOK CEILING, COUNTING SOME CRUISE MISSILES AGAINST US TOTAL AND SOVIETS WOULD POSITION BACKFIRE BOMBERS OUT OF EASY STRIKING DISTANCE OF US.

UPI

JIM ANDERSON FROM GENEVA

LEAD: SOV UNION REACHED AGREEMENT FRIDAY ON FRAMEWORK FOR NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS PACT, US OFFICIALS SAID;

OTHER POINTS:

-- US OFFICIALS SAID FRAMEWORK IS MODIFICATION OF VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT.

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-- FINAL COMMUNIQUE IS EXPECTED TO BIND BOTH SIDES TO MOVE FORWARD IMMEDIATELY ON THIRD ROUND OF TALKS TO DEAL WITH DANGEROUS NEW GENERATIONS OF WEAPONS AND TO AGREE OF REDUCTIONS IN EXISTING NUCLEAR ARSENALS.

-- FRAMEWORK TO BE ANNOUNCED SATURDAY DOESN'T MEAN AGREEMENT IS FINAL. IT'S BASIC OUTLINE FOR SALT III AGREEMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED BY LEADERS OF BOTH GOVTS.

-- DISCUSSIONS JUST ENDED WERE SEEN AS CRUCIAL BREAKTHROUGH BY US SIDE.

REUTERS

ROY GUTMAN AND ROBERT EVANS FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "VANCE ENDED 2 LONG NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WITH GROMYKO TONIGHT AND SAID THEIR LATEST TALKS ON HOW TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL."

OTHERS:

--VANCE DECLINED TO INDICATE WHETHER 2 SIDES HAD MANAGED TO BREAK DEADLOCK ON NEW SALT TREATY.

---JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED TOMORROW AFTER FINAL DETAILS DRAFTED OVERNIGHT.

--IT WAS UNDERSTOOD GROMYKO GAVE VANCE DETAILED RESPONSE  
TO US IDEAS FOR TREATY AT MORNING SESSION.

--AT EVENING SESSION, VANCE HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO GIVE  
US REACTION TO GROMYKO'S MORNING PRESENTATION. VANCE  
WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE CONSULTED WITH PRES CARTER  
BETWEEN TODAY'S SESSIONS.  
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CHRISTOPHER

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